

10/813490

5-9-06

Application No. 10/813,490

Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2006

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 so that the claims read as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell which comprises a step of converting hydrocarbons and/or oxygen-containing hydrocarbons to a reformed gas which is composed principally of hydrogen by an autothermal reforming reaction using an autothermal reforming catalyst which comprises rhodium supported on a support containing a cerium oxide or rare earth element oxide which is composed principally of a cerium oxide, 60 to 95 percent by mass of an aluminum oxide, and one or more elements selected from the group consisting of an alkaline metal and alkaline earth metal, the total amount of said cerium oxide or rare earth element oxide and one or more elements being from 15 percent by mass to ~~[[35]]~~ 20 percent by mass, the atomic ratio of cerium and rhodium (Ce/Rh) being 1 to 250.

2. (original) The process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein said autothermal reaction is conducted at a catalyst bed inlet temperature of 200 to 800°C and at a catalyst bed exit temperature of 500 to 1,000°C.

3. (original) The process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein said autothermal reaction is conducted at a pressure of atmospheric pressure to 5MPa.

4. (previously presented) The process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein the feed stock to be converted to said reformed gas is a petroleum product selected from the group consisting of methane, ethane, propane, butane, natural gas, LPG, manufactured gas, gasoline, naphtha, kerosene, and liquid fuels having boiling points within a boiling point range of the foregoing petroleum products.

5. (previously presented) The process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein the feed stock to be converted to said reformed gas is an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, and dimethyl ether.

6. (previously presented) The process for producing a fuel gas for a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein said support is calcined at a temperature of 700 to 1200°C.